

- (5) Scientific back-up to Sportspersons;
- (6) Training and Development of Coaches, Sports Scientists, Judges, Referees and Umpires;
- (7) incentives to Sportspersons;
- (8) Resource Mobilisation for sports; and
- (9) Easy access to international quality sports equipment.

#### **World Bank Report Regarding Literacy Rate**

1397. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the World Bank Report regarding literacy rate in the country;

(b) if so, the points mentioned in the Report;

(c) whether the Union Government have urged the State Governments to examine the report and make necessary arrangements in improving the literacy rate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) The World Bank has not brought out any report on the literacy rate in the country. However, in a publication entitled "India - Primary Education Achievement and Challenges", statistical information on the literacy rates based on the census was reported.

#### **Extension of N.H. No. 5, A.P.**

1398. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the proposal for extension of the National Highway No.5 between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada into a 4 lane road;

(b) whether the Asian Development Bank and the Centre has agreed to provide financial assistance in implementing the scheme; and

(c) if so, the total aid to be provided by the ADB and the Government, and the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Government of India is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. Widening to four lanes of the following road sections, between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada of NH 5, has been approved by the Government of India and is being implemented under loan assistance from Asian Development Bank.

- (i) Name - four laning including strengthening of existing carriageway from Km. 385/0 - 395/875 of Vijayawada- Visakhapatnam section and

Km. 0/0 - 2/837 of Visakhapatnam - Bhubaneswar section of NH- 5 including strengthening of Ankapalli bypass.

Loan Assistance - included in the total loan amount of US \$ 188 million for six sub-projects in various states. Target date of completion - June, 1997.

- (ii) Name - strengthening of existing two lane carriageway of Vijayawada - Eluru (Km. 3.4 to 53.8 & Km.69.2 to 75) including four laning from (Km.3.4 to 13) and a 17.88 Km. long bypass for Eluru town (Km. 53.80 to 69.20.)

Loan Assistance-Included in the total loan of US \$ 345 million for six sub-projects in various states. Target date of completion - Dec. 2000.

#### **Dental Problem**

1399. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about eighty per cent Indians suffer from dental problems and more than 90 per cent of the urban population is ailing from tooth related disorders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to educate the people on prevention and self-care since a majority of Indians cannot afford dentists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the Dental Council of India Dental carries affect more than 85% of school children. At present approximately 85 per cent of our population is suffering from dental decay and about 95 percent of the population has periodontal diseases.

(c) Pilot Project on comprehensive Oral Health Care was launched on 13.7.1995. The main emphasis in this Pilot project is on preventive care by the community through selfcare measures, focussing on use of flourides, reduction in sugar consumption and smoking and improved oral cleanliness.

[Translation]

#### **Recruitment of Soldiers**

1400. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the strength of Army is being reduced; and

(b) if so, the number of soldiers of the Indian Army as on 31st January, 1997 and the number of new soldiers recruited in ratio to retirement during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to reduce the overall ceiling on manpower in the Army.

Presently, updating data on manpower strength of all categories of personnel in the Army is done twice in a year, i.e. as on 31st March and 30th September. As on 30.9.1996, a total of 9,86,964 JCOs/ORs are on the strength of the Army.

The total number of soldiers (ORs) recruited during the last three financial years (i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96) is 2,06,515. The number of personnel who had retired/discharged/killed during this period was 1,39,821. The ratio of recruitment to retirement is more than 1 because recruits were also needed to fill up existing deficiencies, requirements of new raisings, and releases to Rashtriya Rifles.

#### **Harassment of Women in Delhi University**

1401. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to news-item captioned "Women harassed, but do the dons care ?" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated December 19, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken to prevent such harassment of women in the University of Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A factual report on the allegations made in the news-item has been called for from the University and any further action in the matter would be possible after the same is received.

#### **Crash of AVRO Plane**

1402. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether AVRO-1023 crashed at Prakasham District, Andhra Pradesh on December 26, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the number of farmers, whose houses and crops have been damaged due to the crash, were ignored for providing compensation for the damage; and

(c) if so, the total number of farmers affected and the details of compensation provided to each farmer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) On 24th December, 1996, an IAF AVRO HS-748 aircraft flying from Tambaram to Begumpet crashed 7 Nautical Miles West of Pamuru district, Nellore. A Court of Inquiry into the incident has been ordered.

#### **Problems faced by Soldiers**

1403. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether soldiers deployed in counter-insurgency operations had been facing psychological problems;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The possibility that soldiers deployed in counter-insurgency operations face psychological problems due to long deployment cannot be ruled out. However, this problem has not been significant in the Indian Armed Forces.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

#### **Harappan Vedic Links**

1404. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item appearing in 'Hindustan Times' dated January 1, 1997 under the caption "Harappan Vedic links at Dholavira possible";

(b) if so, since when the excavation work has been going on and the results thereof; and

(c) the details of other protected monuments in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The excavations at Dholavira, District Kutch, Gujarat, have been intermittently going on since 1990. The excavations have revealed a sequence of rise and fall of Harappan culture divisible into seven cultural stages, covering a time-span of over a millennium beginning from the 1st quarter of the 3rd millennium B.C. and coming to an end around 1500 B.C. The excavations have also brought to light the full configuration of Harappan city planning. New evidence of monumental and aesthetic architecture have been gathered. Evidences of congregation ground or stadium having seating arrangement, water harvesting and storage system, information bearing on the funerary structures and practices have also been documented. An inscription consisting ten large-sized Harappan signs is a unique discovery of the site. Besides stamp seals probably depicting mythological scenes, sealings, weights and typical pottery characterising the successive cultural stages have also been unearthed.

(c) A list enclosed as statement.